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Your Magazine of Choice

September 2002, Vol. 10 Number 1

Being There...

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Fun

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Identity

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September 2002
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Coronation 2002

Another court year has come and gone with four days of intense fun, loads of drag, and tons of laughter. Coronation Festival 2002 is over.

It all began on Wednesday when just a few of us Upper House people got together to finalize some last-minute details, well girl let me tell you, that was quite the party! It was the perfect kick-off to an amazing weekend. Thursday night, at the In Town Show at the Roost, Ida and I were thrilled to see so many people from out of town here already, in addition to the crème de la crème of local talent. Special thanks to Weena and Bianca La Bouche for hosting, and to the Village People for getting me giddy.

Then came Friday, with a wonderful Out of Town Show at Boots. Hosted by Bianca La Bouche and Dion Boink, both of Calgary, the show featured performers from Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Minneapolis. One of the great things about being involved with the court as an organization is the opportunities to travel, because in travelling, we make so many incredible friendships with people from all over Canada and the US. Friday's show demonstrated clearly that Edmonton made an impact on the circuit this year, and Ida and I were again thrilled to be a part of something so special.

Lo and behold, Saturday was upon us. For those of you who didn't make it, why not? It was a GREAT party, and Edmonton hospitality was given out the Edmonton way, as the wildest party children in Canada. We also gave out our five $500 scholarships, because like I've mentioned before, we're here to raise money for things just like that. The night featured some amazing entrances by several Edmonton businesses, a great themed number by the Court of Calgary (we warned you guys, "it's on now!"), as well as command performances given out to people who touched Ida, myself, and our ICPs Bobby and Ladonna over the past year. It also had the Decade Walk of Empress 16 Mandy Kamp and the Double Decade Walk of Emperor 6 Daryl aka Mr. Vera.

A few awards were also given out, recognizing some unbelievably dedicated people. The President's Award went to David Taylor, who his phenomenal fundraising this past year. The Empress I Millicent Award went to Mary Mess, for years of dedication and support to the ISCWR. The Citizen of the Year Award was presented to James Ross aka Twiggy, for all the hard work and fabulous fundraising he's done as an Edmonton drag institution. Ida and I, along with Kylie and Dion of Calgary, also presented an Ultima Award to Mr. Vera, as Wild Party Child Ultima.

The Last Walks of Imperial Grand Duke Derek, Imperial Grand Duchess Krystall Ball, our Half-Emperor and Empresses Jim, Cory, Weena, and Bianca, and our IC Prince and Princess, Bobby and Ladonna. These people have worked so hard the past 12 months, and they deserved that moment of spot-lit glory, Squish Squish Squish. And by the time I and Ida did our final walks as your Emperor and Empress, it was with so much emotion, that, well, Squish Squish Squish.

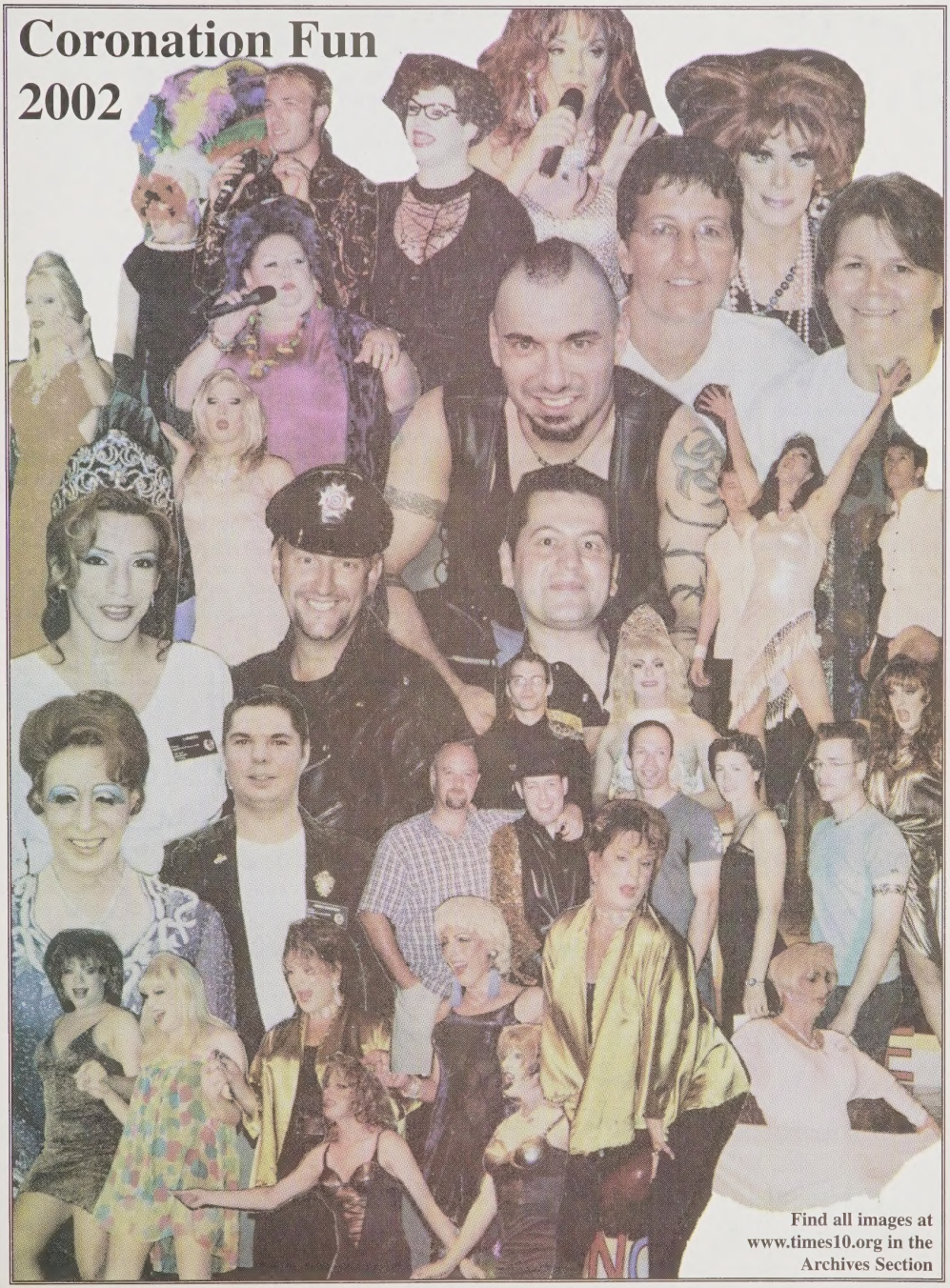
But it's not about Ida and I anymore. As I write this just before Victory Brunch, which I know Secrets has made amazing, the torch has been passed to two wonderful people who you have elected as your new Emperor and Empress: Their Most Imperial and Sovereign Majesties, Emperor 26 Bobby Bigonion and Empress 26 Endora. They'll be out in the next few weeks greeting everyone and prepping the city for our Annual Investitures, held September 28 at Secrets.

ISCWR
EDMONTON

I have to close this month's court column by thanking one person. On behalf of Ida and myself, our love and gratitude is boundless as we thank the one person who made the last week possible: our wonderful Ball Co-ordinator Rae. St Claire, who did an amazing job and who we can never thank enough. Rae, LOVE YA!

Dowager Emperor 26
Rob Bigonion, WPCC

Coronation Fun 2002



Find all images at www.times10.org in the Archives Section

Ask Dr. Dyke

Send your questions to the relationship/ life/sex/home improvement dyke expert! Write to doctordyke69@hotmail.com

Dear Dr. Dyke,
I just found out that the girl I've been dating recently is going to move away due to work. The problem is, I think I'm falling in love with her, which doesn't happen very often. Should I risk a long distance relationship, or break up with her?
Signed, Squidward Octopus

Dear SO,
Well, that's a toughie. Dr. Dyke's own experience with a long distance relationship was not particularly favorable, and then there's the whole issue of getting a cell phone bill for $543.67. And love was actually established on both sides of the phone for a few years before that, so maybe your first plan of action could be to tell her how you feel. Then perhaps you could consider another option: moving to wherever with her. Unless she's moving to anywhere in Saskatchewan, in which case, just break up with her. Just kidding, Dr. Dyke loves all the provinces equally. Except Saskatchewan. Just kidding again. If she is falling in love with you too, then maybe she would consider not moving? Maybe you would consider moving with her? Most sane, reasonable people value love above all, and are willing to risk quite a bit. Sure a job or career is important too, paying taxes, buying groceries, contributing to society in a positive way, recycling, etc., but what kind of movie would THAT make? Sometimes you just have to follow your heart at all costs, and accept the consequences of ending up alone, broke, and in Saskatchewan, eating popcorn and cat food while you save up to move back.

Dear Dr. Dyke,

My partner and I don't usually disagree on much, but lately the one thing bugging me is the whole public display of affection thing. I'm not at all comfortable with it, and my Honey seems more and more obsessed with it. It's putting a strain on us to the point where I don't feel like even going out in public with her anymore. Any advice?
Signed, Patrick Starfish

Dear PS,
The answer always starts with Dr. Dyke's favorite question: Have you told her how you feel? If not, don't wait another groping minute! If she really does love you, chances are she'll respect your wishes and back off with the fondling in Costco. Maybe exploring why buying in bulk turns her on would also be a good topic for the next therapy session. Then perhaps discuss what would be comfortable for you in the PDA department. Holding hands on a fairly secluded autumnal walk through Cooking Lake Park: yes. Having her tongue in your ear at your work's corporate pic nic: no. Having super quiet discreet sex at Silver City: of course, yes. Snuggling at your Weight Watchers meeting: probably not. And it wouldn't hurt either to get to the root of why you don't like being dry humped at the bar-maybe this is more your issue than hers.

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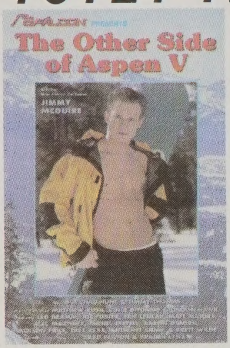

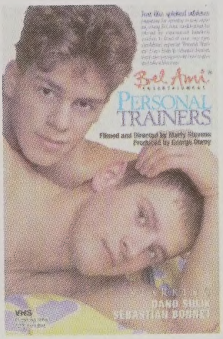

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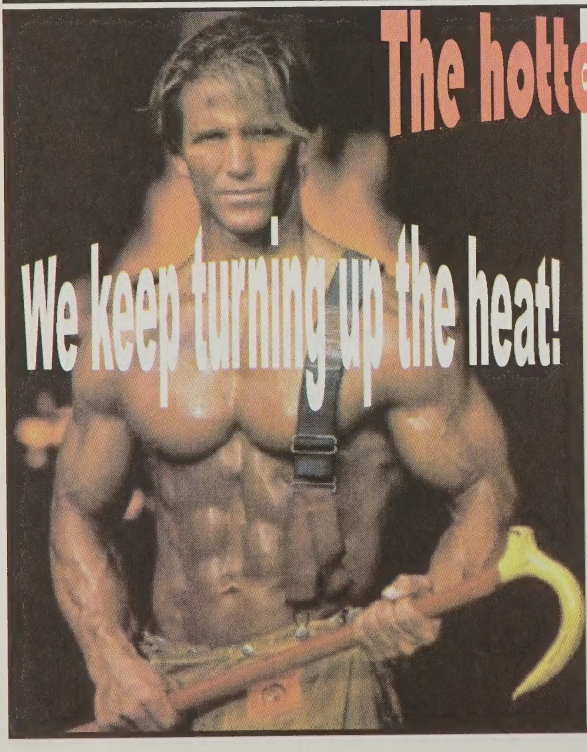

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Orpheus in Edmonton

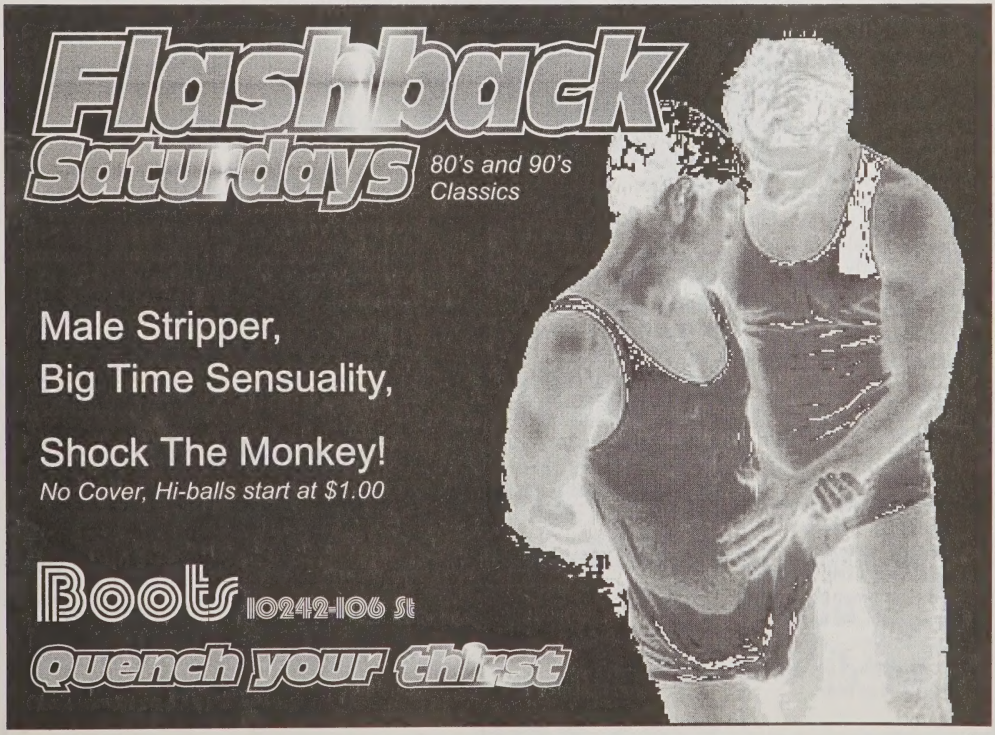
Ballet British Columbia presents the Alberta premiere of Orpheus at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium, September 17 & 18 at 8 pm, for two performances only. Orpheus is the second original, full-length ballet created by Artistic Director John Alleyne.

Based on the Greek myth Orpheus and Eurydice, the story tells of a young poet and musician who travels to the underworld in search of his dead wife. Armed with the gift of song, Orpheus convinces Hades of his love for Eurydice. Hades agrees to let Orpheus lead her back to the upper world, but with one irrevocable condition: If he should glance back at Eurydice, he will lose her forever.

The ballet features the glorious music of Christoph Willibald von Gluck based on his 1762 opera Orpheus and Eurydice. Often described as the Great Reformer of opera, Gluck clung to the familiarity of classical subjects but made his gods and men living, active and feeling individuals with the music secondary to the poetry and drama of the story. Owen Underhill and Michael Bushnell have adapted the music to be played live by a 14-piece orchestra. Adding to the magic of Orpheus are magnificent sets and costumes by Kim Nielsen and dramatic lighting by Mark Stanley.

John Alleyne's Orpheus is a simple tale of beauty, truth, freedom and love. His choreographic vocabulary is a glorious extension of the music, and challenges both the technical and artistic skills of Ballet British Columbia's dancers.

Ballet British Columbia presents Orpheus, September 17 & 18, 8 pm at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets available at all Ticketmaster outlets, Charge-By-Phone at (780) 451-8000 or online at www.ticketmaster.ca. Agency fees apply. This presentation is part of the Alberta Ballet 2002/2003 subscription series.



The Bottom Line

Laurie Blakeman MLA,
Edmonton-Centre
Official Opposition Critic for Justice, Solicitor General, Gaming, Seniors, Community Development

The bad news is the Klein government is pondering legislation that could potentially have an impact on your right to privacy and your safety. I am referring to changes to the Police Act that are currently under discussion. The good news is you still have an opportunity to have a say in these consultations and I strongly urge you to do so.

The bottom line is that among other things, the Provincial government is seriously considering setting up two-tiered policing. In the name of cost-cutting, the government is considering using private security companies and deputy constables to take over responsibilities currently being undertaken by fully trained police officers.

What does that mean for you? Well, first of all, police officers are required to go through a rigorous training before they can become cops. That includes diversity training with clear-cut guidelines on how to deal with minority groups. Gay and lesbian organizations have worked hard to ensure that police officers treat gays and lesbians with dignity and respect and that training is included for each officer. A deputy constable coming onto the job is probably is not going to get that type of training, and quite frankly that worries me. Secondly, we are trained from childhood to see the uniform and to go to them for help. How are we to distinguish between the regular cop and this new cut-rate one without the training?

At another level though is my concern for general safety. The Klein government wants to save money by hiring these cut-rate cops to handle routine assignments like conducting Checkstops and speed traps. Well, as most police officers will tell you, there is nothing routine about a Checkstop. These situations can quickly become volatile and there's no way anyone will be able to predict when that will happen. This can escalate into a situation, which is dangerous for the officer and dangerous for the public. And why? To save a buck. And what will they do with this saved money? Well given their track record, it won't come to us or be put into improving other programs and services.

Another concern I have about the changes under consideration is the continued erosion of your right to privacy. The Klein government is thinking of using unmanned aerial drones for surveillance activities in rural areas. While on the one hand, it seems ludicrous (I mean, are they going to catch cows in the act?), on the other hand, it is extremely intrusive. Who gets to see this video? What kind of activity is going to be viewed as potentially criminal? How long do they keep the tape and who gets access to it? I am offended that our own government would reduce itself to a peeping tom. Albertans are essentially law-abiding people - so why does our government feel the need to treat us all like criminals and have us under 24 hour surveillance?

As I said though, you do have the opportunity to speak up and be heard regarding these potential changes. The consultation questionnaire is available on-line at: http:/www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200207/12777.html#review. You have until October 15, 2002 to speak up and be heard. You can also send comments and suggestions to policing.alberta@gov.ab.ca. Or, feel free to contact my office for more information.

If you would like to be on an email list for me to send you copies of questions asked in Question Period, please send me your email address and let me know whether you are a constituent or where in Alberta you live.

Contact me by email
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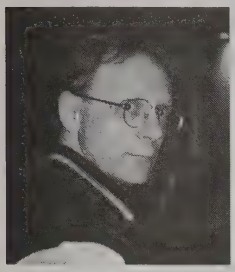
Commentary

By Dennis Cambly
Managing Editor



Be Someone That Cares

I have been trying to tell the story now for over nine years, but I seem to be having a tough time getting the message out. I promise you that it is about you although I sometimes do this for myself. It is a kind of therapy after being through the hell that the late 1970's and early 1980's brought to our community. It was a very different time and is difficult to talk about in words when I look into my soul and see the faces of hundreds of fine people, now gone.

There have been many Wars declared over the past century but no one declared a War on AIDS. So here we are over 30 since the first reported cases and no cure in sight, not even a vaccine. Many people did get together and form organizations to assist people and many of those are still in place. Someone wrote a "rip it down" letter to us and I hear other received the same one. The best thing I can say about it is that the writer of the letter might think of equality as something that everyone gets. Most people died within months and sometimes we saw perfectly healthy people turn into skeletons within a year. The smell of the hospitals still lingers. If you got it you died. New medicines have simply extended the life span yet there is no cure. So stop your constant whining about not getting enough attention. If you want everyone to stop for you then be a movie star or famous singer. AIDS did not stop at our community and for the most part of this little planet did not begin within it. Over 20 million people, most straight, have it in Africa alone. They have little hope of surviving at all since money is the only way to purchase good health due mostly to giant pharmaceutical greed.

I often hear people talking about the good old days when everything was one big party, brought about by the release from the prison, that much of society placed us. That party is over and now we must deal with the reality of everyday living. I want to be a part of the community that includes everyone, not isolated back into the closet of being queer. It took a lot of years and many tears to get out of that closet and no thanks, the academic community is not going to close the doors again.

So the message here is if you truly want equality then you will need to include everyone that you know, and all those that you do not know. Your decision to let the conflict rage on is your choice. If you believe in democracy then it is up the majority to share their beliefs so that they would include all persons. We ought to be the happiest people on earth here in Canada, as we did not give the Supreme Court the choice to decide who would lead our county. We do not say "to hell with the people" as their vote does not count. Your voice does count and it would be a very sad day if you should fall silent to the whiners. Many groups of people have fought every step of the way so that you might take advantage of what you have today. And today, in the Capital City you do have plenty.

Be the best you can be and leave the rest of the baggage behind.

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Being There with Maureen Irwin

(Editor's notes: In May of 1997 we did an interview and cover story with Maureen Irwin. Maureen recently passed away and we felt it would be good to repeat the story with some modifications. She was one of the pioneers in our community. Some people complain today that there are not enough gay related businesses and community groups. Some of those same people think that somehow a magazine such as Times .10 drops out of the sky ten times a year. It has taken many years and a lot of work for the many organizations, groups and businesses to appear and keep on going. It was with the help and skills of people such as Maureen Irwin for much of this to happen. We remember her and the many times she assisted us with the development of Times .10. So we say farewell to a friend and ask you to take a few minutes to get to know a little bit about someone who worked behind the scenes so that we can move forward today.)

Times were not easy when Maureen and her friends first attempted to get out of the closet. Places to meet where few, and during those years most gatherings took place at various homes. Police harassed the individuals for making too much noise and disturbing the peace.

It was during those times that Maureen set out to volunteer much of her time to help get organizations such as GATE off the ground. (Later called GALA). She told us that the Pride committee during the early 70's consisted of "about eight to twelve people" The entire concept behind GATE was to get younger people involved. "Living your life is a statement" say Maureen.

> **"I am me, I am different, and I am okay"**

As people get older it is good to have the younger generation take their place instead of blocking the flow of new ideas and ideals. Lately Maureen has been thinking out loud and says, "quite frankly, people don't care" about your sexuality. "Just get on with your life, pay your taxes and make certain that your dog doesn't do anything wrong on the neighbours lawn"

Her volunteer history stretches back to 1966 where she became involved with various organizations and groups. Everything from Choir Mother to working with physically challenged kids. It was around the later part of the 70's when she became a member of a feminist bookstore called Common Woman Books. While with GATE she helped set up the Womonspace group for lesbian social and recreational purposes. Maureen has done and is still doing a lot of public speaking to all sorts of University, College and Community Schools whenever she gets the chance. One of her more memorable moments was speaking with Michael Phair at the first Pride Parade because they had so much fun.

Simply put she says; "people can make their own personal decisions, and that most people do not want to be separated from each other" That is the great part of volunteering. You can get to meet all sorts of people that you would never see around at other venues. What about getting involved? It is up to each person to examine their motives and they should be feeling good about it, and have a good time at whatever they do.

Most of all "if it doesn't exist, do it!!" Just because the world is changing is no reason not to get involved. There are a lot more choices now because of those changes.

Having a good Community Centre is a terrific idea and it will only survive if the community supports it. In all of the years volunteering Maureen Irwin found that "people close to you need to know who you really are". That is when the fun really begins. As to awards, Maureen has a fair share that she proudly displays for the visitor or guests at her home. An Award of Merit from Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canada, Canada Volunteer Award Medal and Certificate of Honour (presented to 20 Canadians in 1993)

Maureen lived in a committed relationship with Sheryl until Sheryl's death in 1998. She lived a modest life and had always hoped that she will still be able to give to the community by working on the gay and lesbian archives, among a few other projects. "people need to be together, getting married is not going to solve problems in relationships". And if you don't like what I have to say, well, "I am me, I am different, and I am okay".

Young, Gifted And Gay

Black Pride NYC Celebrates Its Youth With Full Day of Learning, Bonding & Living

On Friday, August 2, Black Pride NYC, Inc. in association with Verizon, salutes its young with a full day of exploration, re-direction and cultural enlightenment. The day begins with a morning technology seminar at the Verizon Education Technology Center in Harlem. All participants in attendance will get first hand knowledge from seasoned professionals on the general application and hands-on experience in using and exploring the Internet. This event, which is sponsored by Verizon, will include lunch; interactive games; demonstrations; and live on-line communication and interaction with other youth all around the world.

After visiting the Verizon's technology center, it's off to Spoon Bread restaurant where attendees will savor the uptown flavor at one of Harlem's premiere park side restaurants. This will be followed by an afternoon of dance classes at the Harlem School of the Arts, where choreographer Keith Lewis will demonstrate the latest hip-hop moves. The evening will end with a cruise around Manhattan aboard the Adirondeck Yacht.

Co-Founded in 1997 by New York's leading alternative lifestyle club promoter, James Saunders, Black Pride NYC is a year round program that culminates with a four day festival in August. In addition to providing entertainment and extravagant indoor and outdoor events, the organization is strongly committed to uplifting and educating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) communities of African Descent by providing empowering workshops and seminars. In addition, the organization stages year round benefits soliciting sizable donations for numerous LGBT organizations and causes. Its executive staff includes James Saunders - Chairman; Tita Gray - Executive Director; Secretary Jermaine Onwubere, and Board Member Tanya Lamothe; Volunteer Coordinator Terelle Green and Promotions Director Tony Shelton.

Black Pride NYC takes pride in celebrating the life, love ad passion of those Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people of African Descent who claim New York City their home. The organization is committed to providing a safe uplifting and empowering environment where people of all walks of life can come celebrate their differences and likeness in the most culturally diverse city in the world.

Black Pride NYC 2002 "Generations" is sponsored by the following companies and organizations: GMHC, Budweiser, Arise Magazine, WBLS, Venus Magazine, Brooklyn Marriott, US Airways, Grand Marnier, Verizon, Black 2 Broadway, POCC, National Park Service, The Partnership for Parks, Tri Star Limo, Pure Pride Water, Langston Lounge, Umenent.com, Grand Marnier, Girlzparty.com, Soul Food, Lesbian AIDS Project and Produced by Laurence Pinckney-ZenBizness, LLC for Black Pride NYC, Inc.

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NYC Theatre Tackles High School Homophobia

SourceWorks Theatre is pleased to announce the East Coast premiere of "THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOSET," a drama by EDWARD ROY about a teenage boy forced to grapple with homophobia and violence when his friends discover that he's gay. This award-winning play, written especially for teenagers, is the pilot project of SourceWorks new YouthReach program, which tours plays exploring relevant social issues facing youth to schools in NYC. Directed by SourceWorks Artistic Director MARK CANNISTRARO, the production will be presented at special evening performances for the general public on the following dates and times:

"THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOSET" opens with teenagers Carl, Rick and Justin viciously taunting a stranger they think is a "faggot." When Rick's girlfriend manages to stop them by revealing that she has an uncle who's gay, the boys are stunned. After all, he's a macho cop—he doesn't "act like a queer." It's in this climate of hatred and ignorance that Carl is secretly trying to come to terms with his own carefully guarded orientation. But when Rick and Justin spot him coming out of a gay club, his secret is out—and the wheels of tragedy are set into motion as Carl encounters ostracism by his peers, panic by his parents...and violence at the hand of his former best friend.

The play has been universally acclaimed by audiences and reviewers alike in previous productions by both Toronto's Young People's Theatre (where it won the prestigious Dora Award) and San Francisco's New Conservatory Theatre. The Toronto Globe and Mail called the show "a raw, unmediated picture of homophobia in high schools...unrelentingly honest." The Winnipeg Free Press said "raucous and in-your-face...a timely and traumatic tale of what it means to be young and outed." And San Francisco's Bay Area Reporter opined that the show was "a powerful piece of theatre that communicates its message through bracing drama rather then finger shaking lectures."

SOURCEWORKS THEATRE is an NYC based theatre company currently in its 9th season. The company is committed to producing thought-provoking, relevant theatrical productions with uncompromising integrity, developing new works and new theatre artists, and fostering a public appreciation for the sheer art and excitement of live theatre. To live up to this mission, SourceWorks produces an eclectic slate of both new works and revivals. SourceWorks' new YouthReach program is a theatre-in-education project that seeks to develop and tour health and social issue plays for youth in a proactive effort to educate young people about the ever-changing world around them.

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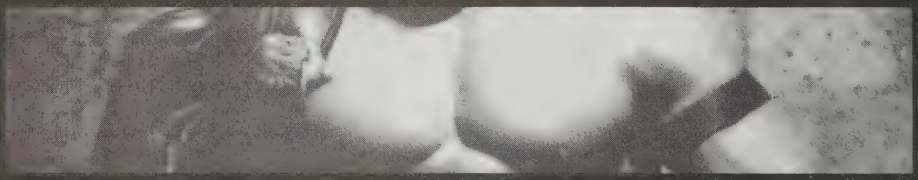

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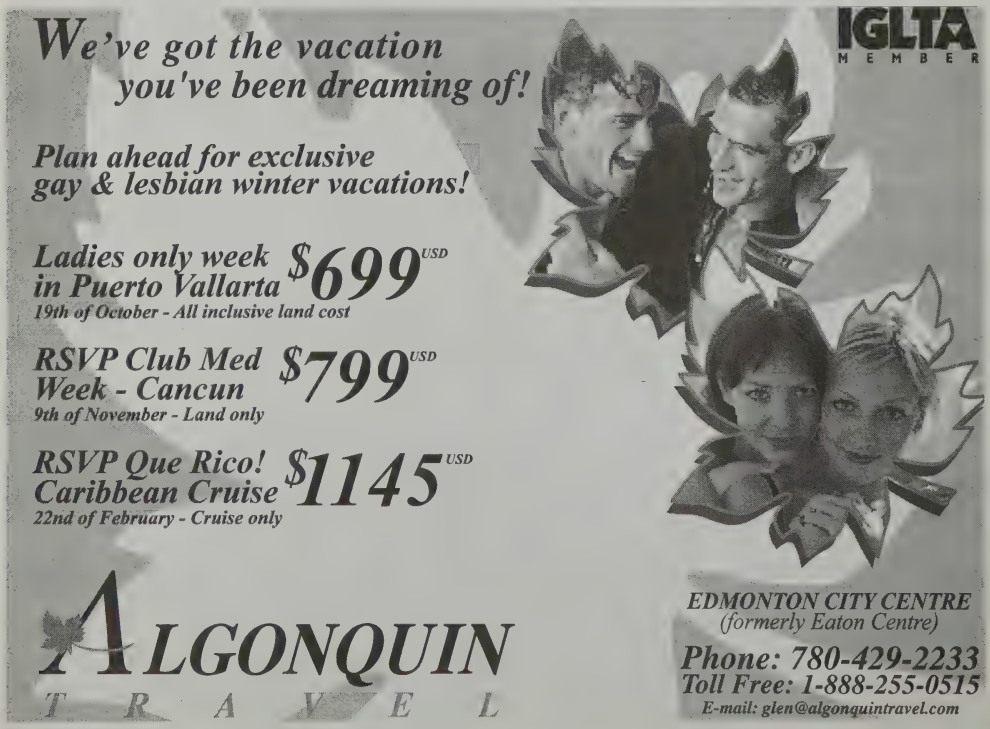
A Woman's View

The dog days of summer are here and once again I'm running late in getting this to Times.10. Sorry about that Dennis. It's been an extraordinary summer for me. Not only in my personal life but that of Ms Edmonton Leather as well. Perhaps I'll write about some of the personal growth I have experienced, but not now. Instead I would like to tell you that I have had time to sit back and reflect about what I have done and where I am going. I am proud to say that I have followed my mandate and will continue to do so. That, for those that don't know, is to provide a conduit for women within our community to explore their sexual bdsm feelings. The first Kinky Women's Workshop was held in July and I feel it was a complete success. This was a workshop for women put on by women who have expressed an interest in "The Lifestyle". I was truly amazed at how many women are interested and feel they had nowhere to go to find out more about what we do. I was even more amazed with the openness and genuine interest that was expressed. The first workshop was designed for women who were very new to the lifestyle. We explored very basic definitions such as what does bdsm stand for? What is the difference between Bondage and Discipline and Dominance and Submission? What is S/M? Is the Leather lifestyle so different from D/s lifestyle and if so, how? We explored what it means to belong to someone and the need to openly and honestly communicate with one's partner, whether it's just a casual play partner or a life partner. We also discussed the need for respect both from the Top and the bottom. I feel we all walked away with a better feeling about our lifestyle in taking this approach rather than the; this is a flogger and this is how you use it approach. Our lifestyle is based on a high degree of mental as well as physical stimulation and it must be understood that honestly and openness is imperative. Due to the success of this workshop I am going to try to hold two workshops a month. One workshop will be for women and couples who are new to the scene and wish to explore more and one for women that have been in scene a bit longer. I hope to continue this for the rest of my year as Ms. Edmonton Leather.

Something else has happened this year that has to be bought to everyone's attention. That is the winning of The International Ms. Leather contest by Russ, Ms Calgary Leather. This is the first time a Canadian, let alone an Albertan, has won this title and it is an honour to be considered her friend. All within the gay community should support her. Russ and I have been in regular communication and are on the same page when it comes to women in our lifestyle or who wish to be more involved in it. With any luck she will be here this month for a fundraiser party at Secrets. She has already consented to being a judge at Ms. Edmonton Leather 2003 in April. You will be hearing more about that in the coming months.

It is at this time I would also like to thank Ida Claire, Empress XXVI of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose. This man has helped me in more ways than I can count and probably doesn't even know it. Not only in helping me with fundraising when I know it was probably the last thing on earth that he wanted to do, but also for just being a friend. Thank you. You have had a hell of a year. Till next month everyone, see you soon and watch for upcoming events.

Yours in Leather,
Marla



September 22, 2002

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Recognized Community Builders

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 462-8896.

Alberta Pflag

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail showrish@compusmart.ab.ca.

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

Arctic FrontRunners

We are a group of gay and lesbian runners that meets on Sunday mornings for a run on the river valley trail system. We are a recreational group and runners of all speeds are welcome. The length of our runs varies from about 7 to 10 km. We yak, laugh, and socialize during the runs and often go for brunch together afterward. During the spring, summer, and fall, we meet beneath the electronic sign at 87 Ave and 114 St on the University campus at 11:00 AM. For more information, call Bill at 436-7892.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet.

The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month 9:00 p. m. - 11:00 p.m. at Buddys Night Club. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3.

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Heather at 987-4974. email address jonrach@msn.com

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

Classics

A social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.. Call Donna at 456-1008

Edmonton PFLAG/T

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. For information contact, Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail: pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca.

Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, or by e-mail at edmontonpt@times10.org, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA):

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422-6207. Membership $25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal Minority

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca, on the web at: http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/evm/, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. 1) C-Recreation - contact Rick at 474-6785; 2) Beach (summer) - contact Rick at 474-6785; 3) B-Intermediate - contact Darcy at 425-7316; Email: volleyball@queerseek.com Website: FTB Volleyball

http://www.queerseek.com/freetobe/

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Cafe on Whyte at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations.E-mail Jared at rainbowboy2000@hotmail.com. Or call Carl after 6 P.M. at 908-3559

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOC)

GMOC is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV among men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on GMOC workshops and other activities, please call (780) 488-0564

HIV Network of Edmonton Society (HIV Edmonton)

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at mail@hivedmonton.com. Visit our Website at HIV Edmonton http://www.hivedmonton.com/

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club. Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is: wildrosecourt@yahoo.com. Visit our Website is at: Wild Rose Court http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/

ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of ICARE is to enhance the well-being of people affected by HIV by offering resources and opportunities for education to service providers and communities. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at icare@oanet.com

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational Christian church. Providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians and their friends 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m. e-mail at lambdachurch@shaw.ca

Liatris Society

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information, contact liatrissociety@hotmail.com or John at 434-5717.

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: livepos@telusplanet.net.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: lylemillang@powersurfr.com

Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)

Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters GLBT club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1. WebPages: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm. 2. E-mail: makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com 3. Phone: Warren 780-920-2847. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

NLA Edmonton

The National Leather Association is the largest and most active pansexual organization in the world. It serves the Leather, SM, Fetish communities. We are an all inclusive organization made up of fun-loving, caring, educated and focused people. Join us at our meetings held upstairs

Continued on page 18

at The Roost, 10345-104 Street every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Buddy's Nite Club the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: Northernchaps@telusplanet.net

Northern Lights Square Dance Club

We are part of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs. Everyone is invited to participate in this non-discriminatory, supportive, fun and stimulating square dance club. Singles and couples are welcome. No special clothing is needed. Comfortable shoes are recommended. We meet every Wednesday from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. from September to June. Contact Denis at 780-922-4355, or e-mail: bflorapro@aol.com, for location of dances.

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, September to April, at Gateway Bowling Centre. For more information, please visit the WebPages at: http://www.geocities.com/northerntitans/

Open Door Club

Grant MacEwan College group. Anyone is welcome, including students, college employees, people from the area, perspective students, alumni or people who are interested in meeting other people. Our WebPages are at: http://www.geocities.com/opendoorclub/or E-mail us at: opendoorclub@hotmail.com

Out at the Symphony

A unique social event for gay men. Meet other music lovers on Saturday evenings for concerts of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Masters mini-series 1. Enjoy special guest speakers, reserved cafe tables at intermission and post-show fun. Contact Paul at 401-2512 for more information.

Outdoors Club

Have you an an interest in backcountry hiking/camping? If so, the Outdoors Club is for you. Our purpose is to get people together for hiking/camping trips, primarily within the Rockies and surrounding area. The activities of this group will be member focused and member initiated. Individuals at all skill levels are welcome to participate. For information, please contact us at 780-430-0759 or e-mail: glb_outdoors@hotmail.com or visit our WebPages at http://www.ee.ualberta.ca/~bdick/glb_outdoors

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the second cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail: outreach@ualberta.ca. They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for persons interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

Yours Mine Ours and Us

Parenting support group for glbt parents, partners. Meets the first and third Wed. of the month from 7 - 9 p.m. Small donations for room costs. Issues of parenting, sharing skills, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at 415-5434 for more information. This is peer support, not a therapy group, nor a dating service. WebPages at: Yours Mine Ours Us http://www.geocities.com/ymou_1999/

Youth Understanding Youth

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the gay and lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail: yuyedm@hotmail.com. Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

Womyn's Volleyball League

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association has initiated a womyn's only league for the first time this year. The season runs until May 28 and new members are welcome at any point. A drop-in fee of $5 or a registration fee of $35 is in effect. Monday nights 7 - 9 p.m. at Highlands Jr. High School (11509 - 62 St. - please use entrance off parking lot. For more information, please contact: Pam at 459-9370 p_mcewin@hotmail.com or Jenn at 424-5100 grnwolf@hotmail.com

Womonspace

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at Womonspace http://www.gaycanada.com/

womonspace/

Regional Organizations

Freedom Fort McMurray

A social Support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiring into membership, please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member, call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may mail us at Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail: gpgayorg@hotmail.com

Northern Rainbow Youth

A support group for High School students. Our email address is nry13_18@hotmail.com. Any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counselor. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780) 790-0775 at work.

Out North

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm E-mail:out_north99@hotmail.com

(We will update all groups in the Oct issue)

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A look at the populations we serve and why

Part 6 of "I care...Do you?"

HIV Edmonton

At long last these rants under the heading "I Care...Do you?" are coming to a close. The last Determinant of Health that will be discussed is "**substance use and addiction**". We deal with substance use and addiction on many levels at HIV Edmonton.

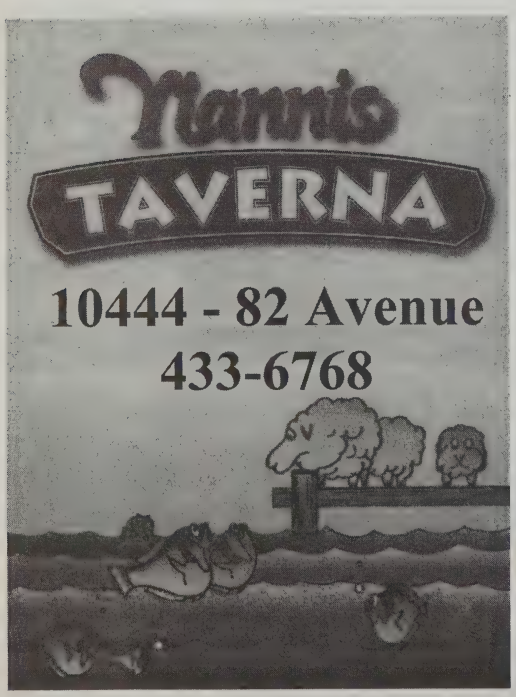
In all likelihood, the first placeyou as a questioning youth headed to in the hope of meeting others like yourself was a gay bar of dance club. In all likelihood you also had your first real "piss up" in a gay bar or dance club, had your first man to m an experience with someone you met in these environments, ad odds are you had your first experience with "hard" drugs in bars and dance clubs. .

This unfortunate realitycreates an inevitable pull tothe bars/dance clubs andoften results in an inevitableincrease in alcohol and druguse. Studies in the United States suggest that alcohol use within the gay/bi/ population is anywhere from 0.94 – 1.9 times the general population. The numbers increase dramatically if we add in the msm population, the portion of men who have sex with men but not identifying as gay or bisexual,. Intravenous drug use in these studies has even greater significance with gay/bisexual men reporting injecting drugs in varying circumstances at 1.5 – 19 times the general population.

Alberta Health and Wellness stats show us that in 2001, 3.8% of all diagnosis identified as MSM/IDU. We also know that of the 38.4% IDUs who tested positive for HIV that there is a significant number who are reticent to give information about their sexual behaviours. Of the 21.4% MSM who have tested positive there is also a significant number who do not divulge their use of alcohol and/or drugs.

There is a disproportionately high number of street involved youth and adults particularly those who identify as two-spirit and who are testing positive for HIV. HIV Edmonton estimates that two fifths of its walk in clientele is gay/bi/Two-Spirit and a slightly greater percentage of gay/bi/msm among the prison population.

As mentioned over and over again in this series of ramblings, the socially and politically induced self-loathing and fear that accompanies the "coming-out" process or even the hard resisted self-acknowledgment that one is gay leads, for many,



to a higher than average dependency on alcohol and drugs. Those suffering multiple discrimination from being both Aboriginal, street involved and gay as experienced by the Two-Spirit population often find themselves (if they indeed survive) in the very pit of despair and need. It is easy enough to become so buried under al the "isms" (multiple discriminations) that they become invisible, because they don't belong to any group they can become invisible to the GLBTT community as well. This is a desperate and yes certainly disparate group of people who have very few resources to help them cope with their disease. They are often dual diagnosed with Hep C and some are chronically addicted to one substance or other, be it alcohol, cocaine, heroin, uppers, downers, glue, Lysol, gasoline...you name it!

Questions have been raised in a public forum about the ways in which AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) in Edmonton do their work with the gay/bisexual/msm populations. One of the statements being made is that "the only people getting help from the ASOs are Intravenous Drug Users and Street People". The criticism goes on to state that "these people are so high on drugs or are passed out in the Drop In, they ask for money, that they smell so bad as to cause others to "just about throw up" and that they are potentially violent allegedly carrying weapons. In addition, the criticism goes on to claim that "these people" are the first to be served and that gay men who are seeking help get so tired of waiting they leave. Quite a condemnation!

Below is a brief description of some of the work we have been doing in and for the GLBTT community.

In 1999 HIV Edmonton committed to work in community development in the GLBTT community. The evidence of need remains very compelling. One of our first acts was to move the Gay Men's Outreach Program (GMOC) into the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE), not because we thought it was just too much work, but because we believed we needed a close community partner in the GLBTT community. HIV Edmonton understands the role of community-based initiatives in addressing the determinants of HIV as they impact all populations.

We assisted GLCCE to secure two years of project funding from the Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF) to run a half time program. In those two years GMOC accomplished more than it did in the final five years with HIV Edmonton, but the funding was not sustainable and the river ran dry. HIV Edmonton formed a partnership with GLCCE to "care-take" GMOC until suitable and hopefully sustainable funds are realized. This work is ongoing and GMOC is presently planning their fall programs. It is not within the scope of either HIV Edmonton's program structure or within the scope of its fiscal capabilities to take over complete responsibility for GMOC.

In addition, HIV Edmonton has been actively involved in program development at GLCCE and in being so has been able to have significant input into the types of programs and services being offered by GLCCE. What needs to be considered is the state of finances that has been the history of GLCCE. This organization has never had sustainable funding. They do not as yet have "Charitable Status" making donations from individuals and corporations very unattractive. GLCCE did not have any staff until they received a Community Lottery

Continued on page 24

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Board Grant for a half time Administration/Volunteer Coordinator in 2000/2001 and 2001/2002. That grant ended in March 2002. For a brief period of two years, with the addition of the GMOC Coordinator, there were two half time positions and a good deal of work being done.

The undeniable fact remains that there is a limited pot of money and with the identification of the "other" populations besides gay/bisexual/msm being infected with HIV, the distribution of that pot has been an ongoing exercise in futility. Keep in mind also that the pot has not increased substantially in many years and the other funding possibilities are quickly drying up as well. The decision on what projects to fund and the scope of the work of each agency is influenced greatly by Community Program Committees who make recommendations to ACHF. These committees are made up of representation from many and diverse agencies and organizations within the social services/help professions. Admittedly, there is no formal representation from the GLBTT community.

HIV Edmonton has also been working very closely with Capital Health: STD Clinic in working within the gay/bi/msm population around STDs, specifically Syphilis; conducting enhanced testing in the bathhouses, working in that spaces to bring information to those seeking anonymous sex and creating awareness around the benefits of testing. HIV Edmonton has also distributed in excess of 15,000 condoms and 2000 packages of lubricant to the gay/bi/msm community since June of 2001. These supplies have gone to almost every community event held in Edmonton in that time frame.

From the perspective of working within, HIV Edmonton initiated pressure on the Alberta Community Council for HIV (ACCH) to create a committee called the Gay/Bisexual/MSM Working Group. The key goals of the working group are as follows;

- Conduct an "environmental scan" of committees, organizations, individuals working in men's health and wellness and identify work being done in all communities in Alberta.
- Identify barriers to men's health and wellness (gay/bi/MSM men)
- Explore options for supporting men's health and wellness programming both in short and long term
- Identify existing funding opportunities for community based organizations working in LGBTT community specifically gay/bisexual/MSM men's health and wellness.
- Develop a mechanism to include LGBTT organizations working in HIV/AIDS and health specifically gay/bisexual/msm men as permanent members of ACCH.

As you can see, none of this work is short term and none of it is immediately tangible. The G/B/MSM Working Group needs to have a recommendation to ACCH for March 31, 2003.
HIV Edmonton regrets that we may not have communicated our services adequately to each and every member of the community, and we also understand the frustration that some members of the gay/bi/msm community might feel when seeing "their ASO" seemingly ignore their needs. HIV Edmonton wants to assure you that the door is open and services are available to everyone infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. We have never and will never loose sight of that mandate. We invite you to dialogue openly with us about what you feel might be shortfalls in our initiatives and to work with us in making our services more accessible to everyone.

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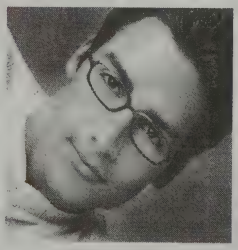

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SYPHILIS ALERT CONTINUES!

Edmonton and Calgary have seen a rise in the number of cases of syphilis in the last few months.

Facts about syphilis:

- It is passed on by having sex, including blow jobs, hand jobs, rimming and anal sex
- If you are infected you may not have any obvious symptoms, but it can be picked up on a blood test
- It is curable
- It has serious health effects if not treated
- Increases your chance of getting HIV

If you:

- Have a sore on the penis or around the anus or in the mouth or back of throat (usually painless)
- Had anonymous or unprotected (no condoms) oral or anal sex
- Are worried that you might be at risk
- Have any questions

Please contact the

Edmonton Capital Health STD Centre
at (780)413 5156 or 1-800-772-2437 for information on nearest STD Centre

or contact

HIV Edmonton at (780)488-5742 or men@hivedmonton.com

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Speaking of Normal

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW
And Gordon Portman,
award-winning playwrite.

"A woman of substance" is how she was described at her memorial service.

Maureen Irwin (Moe) died of cancer in July of this year, and I for one am left feeling bereft, devastated, confused, teary, all symptoms, my therapist self tells me of 'normal grief' that will pass in due time.

But my activist self knows that there is more to this loss than losing a friend, companion, compatriot. Maureen has left a presence of absence, an emptier space where there is true understanding of what being an out, politically active lesbian means. She was one in 1983 when I met her, also a mother, friend, pragmatic feminist. She knew in her gut the power of political influence on all levels of our lives and believed in our power to create change.

I remember phoning her one Sunday a few months ago, as I was wont to do after she moved to Calgary, and having her gently chide me for not having read a certain article in the Saturday National Post. And her pithy comments about whatever political nonsense was going on at the time. She was busy living with her cancer, not dying from it till the end.

Moe had a lived experience of being an Other in the ways that only those have been openly lesbian or gay and done the face to face work for our legal and political rights can really grasp. She knew the experience of going to the legislature and meeting yet again with politicians, and of being eyed curiously as " one of those people" by various security and other staff there. Of having your hand shaken out of protocol but of knowing folks really did not want to sit too close. Of knowing that one thing was being said to her face while another was being said once the door was closed behind her, and that it wasn't just party politics doing the talking.

Being an Other is dangerous in all societies, being a lesbian or gay Other is one of the more dangerous types to be. We threaten the status quo on so many levels...and knowing that often scares us of ourselves. So perhaps it is simply that one of the few occupants of that " yes, I am a lesbian and that's damn fine with me" spaces in the world

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has gone.

Many an opponent of human rights has been shut down by her " brown shoe' response. Often asked how much we activists represented all the lesbians and gays in the province, Moe would declare that we are as different as all the folks who wear brown shoes are one from another and no one seems to give a two hoots about them. What matters is that all the folks who wear brown shoes are safe to do so.

The reference to Moe as a woman of substance, I think referred mostly to the strong energy she brought to that space of being an Other. She was an advocate for the poor, working endlessly at Urban Manor, always working on various political campaigns. An endless supporter of Michael Phair, she commented that it was nice to be on a winning campaign for a change.

My partner Anna and I went to see Moe, to say goodbye. I will not forget that visit. At one point in the conversation, they were talking about a friend's house and the extensive work being done on it. Moe commented that these men were lucky to have lots of money and so could afford the renovations. Anna said,

" money sure makes a difference" and Moe's response was " It sure does". Just a matter of fact statement that said so much about her work and her experiences.

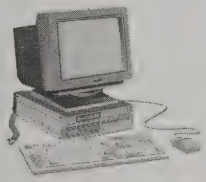
Being around Maureen and her beloved partner Sheryl, one felt the presence of the magic of their love. Sometimes the four of us, all having being married and divorced, would talk about the institution of marriage and why lesbians and gay men might want to be legally married. Sheryl, who died several years ago, was an astoundingly bright woman, doing her PhD., thesis on gender identity formation. As Sheryl would comment about marriage, " it doesn't seem to have done a whole lot of good for heterosexual women, so why would lesbians want it..." yet there was no doubting their love and commitment.

There are not a lot of folks who have experienced what Moe and other lesbian and gay political activists have. For me, that is part of why the sense of loss is so huge, that space of Otherness has lost someone who helped make it all worthwhile, with a commitment to the outcome, a willingness to do the work and to have fun in the process.

Miss you, Moe.

(The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author alone. Any client related information is disguised to protect identities. This column is not intended to replace consultation with a qualified professional psychotherapist)

Cyber-City Internet Cafe



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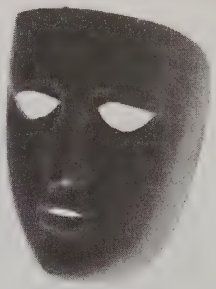

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Balance, Discipline, Diversity

Key to preserving wealth

CANADIAN INVESTORS HAVE ALL FELT the effects of the highly volatile market this past year, and many have experienced increased levels of anxiety and fear.

Most investors who got swept up in the technology wave and went too heavily (more than about 10 per cent of portfolio) into high-technology stocks during last year's bull market found themselves with significant losses a year later. Similarly the recent stock market slide has eroded at least some of the value in almost every investment portfolio. The downturn proves, once again, that chasing an investment craze most often results in financial disaster or, at the very least, financial disappointment.

The best way to survive the slowdown is by maintaining a well-balanced, diversified portfolio, a consistent focus on long-term objectives and an investment discipline rooted in basic investment values. Despite the roller coaster markets North America experienced during 2000, many prudent investors were able to outperform the market and achieve returns well above the growth rate of the Canadian mutual fund industry average of 2.5 per cent.*

Years of research have repeatedly shown that a consistent focus on long-range objectives, rather than short-term gains, is the key to building and managing personal wealth. But that doesn't mean investors can't take advantage of market volatility.

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Diversify your assets Asset allocation plays a key role in protecting your investments during a bear market. Financial industry studies have repeatedly demonstrated that asset allocation-and not the individual investments you choose-is the single largest determinant of overall investment performance. With a portfolio that includes a variety of asset classes (equity, fixed-income securities and cash) you have a much better chance of weathering a bear market.

Your financial goals, which should be an integral part of a complete, written financial plan, combined with your time targets and risk tolerance, help

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...through uncertainty to new possibilities...

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determine the right asset mix for your portfolio.

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If you're concerned that your portfolio performance isn't in keeping with your long-term financial goals, talk to us about the best way for you to tackle current conditions and be prepared for the future.

* The 2.5 per cent figure represents the increase in assets under management in the Canadian mutual fund industry (as reported by IFIC) for the 12 months ended December 31, 2000. It includes capital growth, undistributed income and reinvested distributions, but excludes net sales.

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Don't Just Lay around the house sad and blue

Secrets

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A View from the Top

By Sir Scott

It is with great pleasure and pride that I can introduce Mr. Mike Sinnot who is our most recent Mr. Edmonton Leather. The following article is very thought provoking and an excellent introduction into the scene for anyone who cares to join.

I would like to remind everyone that Northern Chaps will again meet 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month at Buddy's Nite Club. Come and join us. We would love to see some new faces for the beginning of the season.

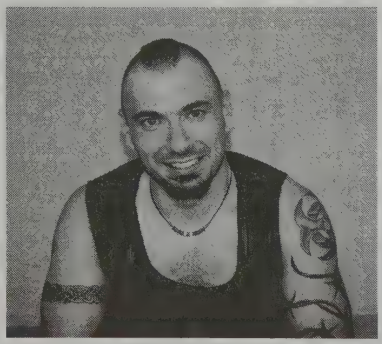
Leather Youth

Let me introduce myself. My name is Mike and I am Mr. Edmonton Leather 2002. I would like to thank everyone for his or her kind words of support since assuming the title on June 15. Having been out in leather since my late teens, I thought my first article for Times.10 would focus on youth and coming out in leather.

Coming out is never an easy process. For many gay men, women, and transgendered persons, coming out is a heart wrenching experience. In admitting to others and ourselves who and what we are, we risk losing friends, family, jobs, and housing. For many of us though, whether the experience is positive or negative one, we would never change our coming out since it was what we needed to do, to truly be ourselves.

Once out into our community, the flora and fauna that exists in this world surround us. There are drag queens, twinkies, fashionistas, lipstick lesbians, dykes, jocks, and circuit boys... which demonstrate the diversity of our community. There also happens to be 'Leather Folk'. They tend to congregate in groups, usually in bars with names like Toolbox, Eagle, The Cuff, or anything else that may sound menacing. These folk are not cow friendly; in fact, their closets are often filled with the hides of many cows in the form of pants, jackets, chaps, shirts, vests, slings, harnesses, restraints, boots, and a million other gadgets. This group tends to wear its sexuality on its sleeve for the whole world to see, and tends not to be ashamed of who they are and what they do.

With that said how are younger people of our community at large who may be curious or interested in leather supposed to break into a group of people who appear to be somewhat prohibitive. Let me tell you, Leather Folk view their brothers and sisters in leather more as family than friends. Well here is a guide for the Leather curious amongst you.



Try and come out when we do. In Edmonton there are quite a few leather organizations. There is the Edmonton 'O' Society, NLA Edmonton, Northern Chaps, ECUM, and Tops & Bottoms. These organizations all have club nights, and meetings. I know that the Edmonton 'O' Society meets at Boots on the Second Wednesday of every month. Northern Chaps meets on the first and third Saturday of the month at Buddy's. ECUM (Edmonton's Community of Uniformed Men) meets at Boots on the second Saturday of the month. If in doubt, most of these groups have their information posted at B & D Emporium, which is at 9652 Jasper Ave. Also note that I host a small but festive leather night at Boots every Wednesday.

Try and wear something "leatherish". Arm bands, leather pants, a harness, are all signals you're into the whole thing. In the gay male leather world, I would say looking butch works great too. Many leather clubs see themselves as Leather/Levi/Uniform/Bear. This is quite a range. If in doubt, come say hi, one of us can help you in the right direction.

Come say hi. Leather folk generally don't bite (unless you are into that and ask first). The first thing you should learn is the mantra of leather. Be Safe, Be Sane and Be Consensual. Leather folk, though often playful, should respect your limits.

Remember leather is supposed to be about fun, but some of us do take the lifestyle very seriously. If your first meeting with a leather person does not go well, remember that there are more fish in the sea. Like everyone you meet in life you either click or you don't. Some of my first involvements in the leather scene were not too pleasant. I got too involved in the politics to early. I just brushed it off and kept on going. I eventually found my home in the leather family.

And a few notes to us in welcoming newbies:

If we see a young person out in the bar trying to catch our attention, go say hi. They may be wearing leather pants, a collar, a harness, armbands etc. We should go say hi. We should also be reminded that we want to welcome them, not scare them away. This would not be a good time to tell them that they are wearing the armbands wrong. They are young and trying. They will learn all the ropes to speak over time. If we alienate them from the get go however, they will never learn, or want to.

Let's remember leather is supposed to be fun. New people don't know or care about the politics involved in leather. Let's try and not scare them away with the ins and outs of leather contests, awards, history and personages right away. That all comes with time. It took me years to remember who designed the leather pride flag. We can't expect new people to remember or care in the first weeks out in leather.

Over all I would like my year as Mr. Edmonton Leather to bring more fun and visibility to leather. I became a leather man for three reasons:

I liked the men. I have always found masculine men attractive. Leather in the gay male sense celebrates basic masculinity.

I am a pig. Though I am not into S/M as such, I would consider myself a pig, which is also a part of the leather scene.

Leather is fun, plain and simple. Your leather friends may one day become like family.

If any of this appeals to you, come say hi. I listed the main meeting times for the leather clubs and organizations here in town. Hope to see you out and about. And remember, be Proud of who you are.

Mike Sinnott
Mr. Edmonton Leather 2002

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You and Your Funny Bone..:)

Which Doctor

A man walked into a bar and stood at the bar, talking to the bartender. He ordered a beer and an empty shot glass. When the bartender gave them to him, the man paid for the beer, poured a little into the shot glass, and placed the shot glass into his large coat pocket. Then he drank the beer. After a few minutes, he took out the shot glass, empty.

He talked to the bartender for awhile, and then ordered another beer and empty shot glass. Again, he poured off some beer into the shot glass and put the glass into his pocket. Again, he drank the beer and a few minutes later, he took the shot glass out of his pocket, empty.

When he ordered a third beer and empty shot glass, the bartender could contain his curiosity no longer. "Why do you keep putting that shot glass of beer into your pocket and taking it out again empty?" "Oh," said the man, "that's for the Colonel." "The Colonel? What are you talking about?" The man reached into his pocket and pulled out a little man, about one foot tall, dressed in an army colonel's uniform. He set the little man on the bar and handed him the shot glass of beer. The little colonel drank the beer and gave a little burp. The bartender couldn't believe his eyes. "Is he real?" he gasped.

"Sure he's real," said the man. "Colonel, would you mind walking over by the peanut bowl and back?" The little colonel marched to the peanut bowl and back. The bartender was astounded. "This is amazing," he said. "Can he talk?" "Sure he can talk. Colonel, tell him about the time that you were stationed in Africa and called that witch doctor a liar."

Bubba Again

The football coach noticed that his star tackle, Bubba had so many women hanging around that he couldn't possibly handle all of them. So one day he asked Bubba, "Just what the hell is your secret?" So Bubba replies, "Well Coach, whenever I'm about to have sex, I always whip it out and bang it on the dresser like a hammer. That numbs it and I can screw 'em forever!" The coach went home early one day, and went to the bedroom. He heard his wife in the shower. Seeing a window of opportunity, he tore off his clothes and started banging it on the dresser. His wife stuck her head out of the shower and said, "That you Bubba?"

Wisdom

The wise old Mother Superior was dying. The nuns gathered around her bed, trying to make her comfortable. They gave her some warm milk to drink, but she refused it. Then one nun took the glass back to the kitchen. Remembering a bottle of whiskey received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at Mother Superior's bed, she held the glass to her lips. Mother drank a little, then a little more, then before they knew it, she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop. "Mother, Mother" the nuns cried, "Give us some wisdom before you die!"

She raised herself up in bed with a pious look on her face and pointing out the window, she said "Don't sell that cow."

What's Up Doc

The CIA, the FBI and the LAPD are each asked to prove their capability of apprehending terrorists. President Bush releases a white rabbit into a forest and tells each agency to catch it. The CIA goes first. It sends animal informants into the forest. They question all plant and material witnesses. After three months of intensive investigations the CIA concludes rabbits do not exist.

The FBI goes in. After two weeks with no leads it bombs the forest, killing everything, including the rabbit. It makes no apologies; the rabbit had it coming, it insists. The LAPD goes in. They come out after just two hours with a badly beaten bear. The bear is sobbing, "OK, OK, I'm a rabbit, I'm a rabbit."

Gotcha

The hit-and-run victim was just getting to his feet when a policeman ran up to help.

"My mother-in-law just tried to run me over!" the shaken man told the cop. "The car hit you from behind," the officer said. "How could you tell it wasyour mother-in-law?"

"I recognized her laugh!"

Cross Exam

An attorney was cross-examing the coroner of a small town in the mid west in June of 1995. That names will remain hidden to protect the stupid. The attorney asks, "Before you signed the death certificate, had you taken the man's pulse?" The coroner said, "No." The lawyer then asks, "Did you listen for a heartbeat?" "No", say the coroner. "Did you check for breathing?" again, the coroner says, "No." "So," the lawyer continues, "When you signed the death

certificate, you had not taken any of the usual steps to make sure the man was dead, had you?"

The coroner, now tired of the browbeating said, "Well, let me put it this way, the man's brain was sitting in a jar on my desk, but for all I know he could have been out there practicing law somewhere!"

Bottom Deodorant

The blonde walks into a pharmacy and asks the assistant for some bottom deodorant. The pharmacist, a little bemused, explains to the woman that they don't sell bottom deodorant, and never have. Unfazed, the blonde assures the pharmacist that she has been buying the stuff from this store on a regular basis, and would like some more. "I'm sorry," says the pharmacist, "we don't have any." "But I always get it here," says the blonde. "Do you have the container it comes in?" "Yes!" said the blonde, "I will go and get it." She returns with the container and hands it to the chemist who looks at it and says to her, "This is just a normal stick of underarm deodorant." The annoyed blonde snatches the container back and reads out loud from the container, "To apply, push up bottom."

Are you a cowboy?

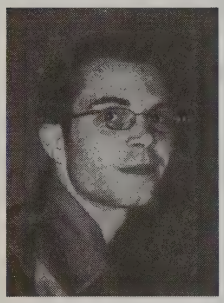
An old cowboy - dressed to kill with cowboy shirt, hat, jeans, spurs and chaps - went to a bar and ordered a drink. As he sat there sipping his whiskey, a young lady sat down next to him. After she ordered her drink she turned to the cowboy and asked him, "Are you a real cowboy?" To which he replied, "Well, I've spent my whole life on the ranch, herding cows, breaking horses, mending fences, so I guess I am." After a short while he asked her what she was. She replied, "I've never been on a ranch. I am a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about women. I get up in the morning thinking of women, when I eat, shower, watch TV - everything makes me think of women." A short while later she left, and the cowboy ordered another drink. A couple sat down next to him and asked, "Are you a real cowboy?" "I always thought I was," he answered, "but I just found out that I'm a lesbian."

The First Little Pig

My friend likes to read his two young sons fairy tales at night. Having a deep-rooted sense of humor, he often ad-libs parts of the stories for fun. One day his youngest son was sitting in his first grade class as the teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to acquire building materials for his home. She said "...And so the pig went up to the man with a wheelbarrow full of straw and said 'Pardon me sir, but might I have some of that straw to build my house with?'" Then the teacher asked the class "And what do you think that man said?" and my friend's son raised his hand and said "I know! I know! He said 'Holy smokes! A talking pig!'"

My Monthly Neurosis

Rob Browatzke



After a summer off, where is one to start with being neurotic? A lot can happen in two months, can't it? So to start off the year, it's yet another neurotic relationship potpourri.

Some people can be far too patient with their partners. I'm not talking abuse here, of any sort, more along the lines of consistent cheating. Close your eyes, ignore what's going on, but eventually, you have to wake up and smell the other person. When is too much? Who can say? After a one-night stand? After a lengthy affair? After the second lengthy affair? I'm not sure if it's strength or not for one person to endure so much from the person they love, who supposedly loves them back. I can see how some might think it strong, maybe even romantic, to attempt to withstand almost anything because you love someone so much you can't picture your life without them. Still, maybe it's delusional on their part to picture themselves as actually having a life together.

You might like them young and pretty and you might be young and pretty enough to still get them young and pretty, but eventually, you're not going to be young and pretty anymore. People who keep ditching people who genuinely care about them because someone has come along who's younger or prettier or whatever, will eventually have to deal with the results of being so superficial. I'd never be so hypocritical to say stay with someone when you're done being with them. Just realize: youth fades, and so can love.

If you're dating someone who cheats on you, realize that the person you should be angriest with is your partner, not the third wheel. If they slept around on you, that was their choice, they made it in full knowledge of what that meant, and the other person cannot be held responsible for your boyfriend's actions. Holding the other person responsible is just avoiding dealing with the issues in the relationship that caused the cheating in the first place. This is of course assuming what you both want and both have agreed upon is monogamy, which of course may not be the case.

If you're that third wheel, and he decides he wants to leave his partner so the two of you can be together, don't be surprised when he meets someone new and repeats the cycle. If infidelity is what brought you together, it can come as no shock when infidelity is what breaks you apart.

Having to deal with the fact that someone you (thought you) loved more than anything in the world and would have been deliriously happy to spend the rest of your lives together, isn't in that same space anymore can be a real difficult thing to come to terms with. Time heals all wounds blah blah blah and squish squish squish but really, time is what it takes, and maybe it's the fatalist in me, but if that's the way things ended, when enough time passes, you'll realize maybe you didn't feel quite the same way you thought you did. And realize that there's way more people out there waiting to sweep you off your feet and break your heart.

Well and there you go, a few cheery thoughts to start off September with. See you in October. I'm sure it'll be much much happier subject matter I pick for that.

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Interim Program Manager

HIV Edmonton

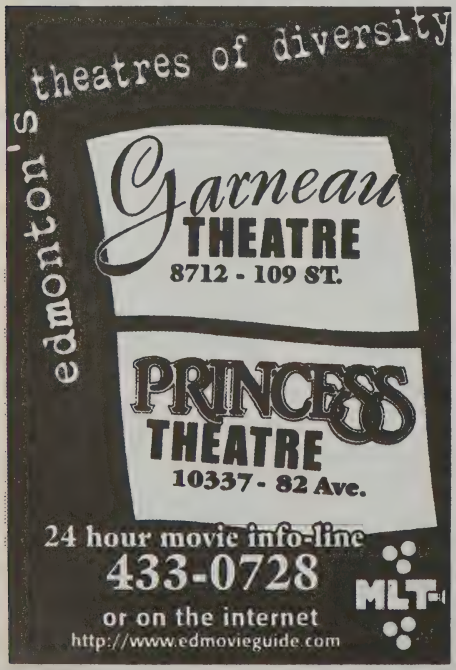
Dear Readers

On July 29, I started working as the Interim Program Manager at HIV Edmonton, and I will be here until April of 2003. I volunteered with HIV Edmonton in many roles since 1992, including serving with the Board of Directors. I worked with people living with HIV/AIDS in a paid capacity with the Kairos programs of Catholic Social Services from 1995 to 2000, and I have been watching my friends get sick and die since 1988.

I think that was around the time there was finally an appropriate name for this illness...AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Prior to that, I think it was called GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency Syndrome). At that time, my friends and I were grieving the loss of the lives of our gay, male friends and celebrating the rise of a very gay-driven grassroots movement to raise awareness and advocate for our positive friends. We were all so full of grief and anger that we did what our community does best....make a lot of noise. It appeared to have worked, because this is what our former Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney had to say on June 4, 1989 at the 5th International Conference on AIDS:

"Having this illness neither diminishes people's humanity nor limits their rights. People with AIDS are entitled to our respect as well as to our compassion. Shunning people with AIDS or attaching stigma to the illness obscures the existence of AIDS when precisely the opposite is required...It is morally offensive, at the very least, to make persons with AIDS the outcasts of the 20th century. It is also inhuman, the sort of blind ignorance which should make us thoroughly ashamed."

Sadly, 13 years later in the 21st century, we haven't made much progress. It almost appears that we may have regressed in terms of raising awareness and receiving the support of the mainstream community, because HIV has become so closely associated with words perceived as negative by the mainstream community. These are words like unprotected sex and sex trade, non-prescription needle



use and addictions, blood and body fluids. These words are so blindingly unpleasant that they obscure the messages we try to send to educate, to raise awareness, to advocate, and to comfort.

In 1995, when I started to get paid to work with people living with HIV, a very wise and experienced colleague advised me not to reinvent the wheel. I wasn't entirely sure what she meant until I read this poem by Pastor Niemoller:

First They Came for the Jews
First they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out-
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the communists
And I did not speak out-
Because I was not a communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out-
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me-
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

Substitute any under-recognized and under-served groups, for example, gays, people of colour, prostitutes for Jews, communists, and trade unionists, and I think you get the picture. I work with people living with HIV and that means that the people I work with are human; that means that the people I work with experience the entire alphabet of human experience from addictions to zootropy.

This gay driven grass roots movement has succeeded in many ways that continue to give me hope. I have heard support workers and educators claim that their goal is to ultimately work themselves out of jobs, and I see this has happened because lots of the gay, positive men that were very vocal and instrumental in building and supporting the AIDS organizations in Edmonton are still around. I sit with them on community committees and partner with them in work related activities; they are essential pieces of the machine driving the work that continues.

I see that the awareness raising was done so well that there are a lot more gay men getting tested for HIV. I think this falsely inflates our statistics on the rate of new infections, because I still hear stories from my straight friends about their doctors not seeing a need for them to get tested and their embarrassment to go to the STD clinic for anonymous testing. I am grieving the loss of a whole other set of gay, positive friends who are moving away to take better jobs in another city, to join beautiful partners, and to care for the family members that should have been nursing them. I am not wearing rose-colored glasses when I say this and expecting these men to climb Mount Everest and just carry on as if nothing is different, because HIV is now perceived as a treatable and chronic illness, rather than an incurable and terminal disease. I know that you are still full of grief and anger, no less than we were in the late 1980s.

Make some noise.

Ask for help.

Come back.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you again.

Nieves Calaycay
Interim Program Manager
HIV Edmonton

Respond In Healthy Ways

Human service staff and volunteers give their resources, energy and skills to people in need or crisis - but who cares for the caregivers? When the Health Cares Exchange Initiative, Inc. (HCEI), an innovative educational public charity held nationwide focus groups, both paid and non-paid caregivers revealed they do not feel as supported as they would like. In response, HCEI developed a dynamic stress management skills building seminar, which has been presented nationwide.

Staff and volunteers who give their energy to those in need are at risk for emotional exhaustion and burnout, creating costly gaps in expertise and trainings. Caregivers transfer their patience, guidance, humor information and resources to people who are often living with fear, pain or crisis. But it's possible to articulate who and what causes stress in our personal and professional lives and to respond in healthy ways. Many causes of stress may be out of our control, however we are in control of each of our own responses.

Burnout and mental health are still taboo topics, and care for the caregivers is only finally becoming a real issue in the face of nursing and teacher shortages. Self-sacrificing caregivers are hesitant to ask for support when they feel stress because there are often no effective resources in place for them and also they don't want to reveal "weakness" to their supervisors. More and more, however, organizations are realizing that it's more affordable to invest in education and retention rather than pay the high cost of recruiting and training.

Caregivers deal with stressful issues every day, and in 1992 HCEI was founded at Boston in response to the stressors facing AIDS caregivers. HCEI's mission is to create supportive networks between diversely affected caregivers and then foster information and personnel exchanges between them. The organization works to enhance community-based care, encourage collaboration and educate caregivers about burnout prevention. HCEI held the first-ever nationwide focus groups for both paid and non-paid AIDS caregivers and has developed an interactive stress management skills building seminar and also a capacity building seminar for urban and rural providers. HCEI's initial focus was AIDS caregivers and has expanded, working with a wide variety of caregivers and consumers.

2. Ask for help. Caregivers are generally giving "in control" people who prefer to do things themselves rather than asking for help. But we can't do it all ourselves, especially when there are people who would help us if we only articulate what we need and trust them to do their best.

3. Be silly. It's a short life, what would happen if you went to work or the grocery store in your pajamas? Keep lists and triage tasks. Persons who keep lists accomplish 40% more then those who don't.

For more information about ways you can work to celebrate and support caregivers in your community, please contact Scott Boots at HCEICares@aol.com, visit www.HCEI.org or call 617-499-7780.

1-900-451-3800 ($1.99/min.) 18+ Browse at www.interactivemale.com

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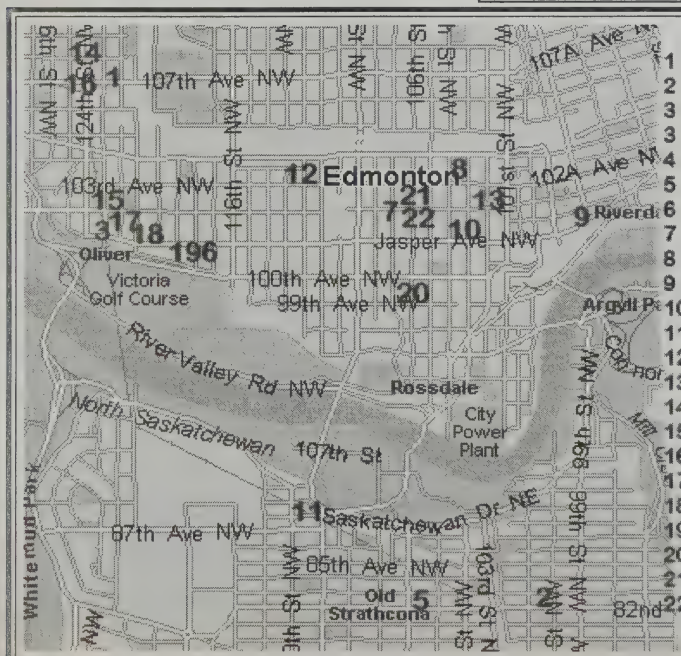

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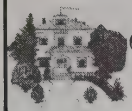

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Historic Gay Rights Meeting

History was made Saturday afternoon as Alabama's largest gay rights group held its first statewide meeting in Montgomery, the birthplace of the civil rights movement. Equality Alabama is a statewide organization working for full equal rights and opportunities for all - regardless of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Equality Alabama believes that it is time for justice seeking people of Alabama to organize. "Each time we organize to tackle injustice and hatred, homophobia and bigotry we get more powerful. A few more speak out. A few more take more risks. We feel less alone and vulnerable. A truly statewide organization can be powerful enough to change the hearts and minds - and laws - so that nobody in Alabama, regardless of sexual orientation, will experience discrimination in housing, the workplace, and personal relationships," said Equality Alabama member Reverend Karen Matteson of Birmingham.

Accomplishments since forming this spring were celebrated at the meeting. They include:

1. Equality Alabama helped to organize the counter protest of the Christian Coalition's rally called "We Are the People" at the Alabama State Capitol. The rally was to show support for Judge Roy Moore. The counter protest called "We Are the People, Too..." matched or outnumbered the supporters of Judge Moore and the Christian Coalition. With only a little over a week to organize we helped to turn out over one hundred people to say no to hate and bigotry. Before the rally there had been a rush by the Republican gubernatorial candidates, in particular, to link themselves with Judge Moore. While we cannot currently remove Judge Moore, we showed other politicians that bashing gays is no longer the way to get elected in Alabama.
2. Equality Alabama is supporting a lawsuit challenging the Alabama's Sexual Misconduct or Sodomy Law in Federal Court. GALAA raised money for several years to fund this suit.
3. We contacted Auburn University's President and Diversity Leadership Council about correcting language they used when discussing sexual orientation and requested that they include transgendered persons in their diversity programs. President William Walker has been back in touch to thank us and we have also offered to work with them in the future as they put together a diversity plan for the entire institution.
4. Equality Alabama, in a working relationship with the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC., has lobbied state legislators about the Hate Crimes Bill, has denounced Judge Moore's bigoted opinion, and co-sponsored a Lobby Training Program. HRC has pledged their continued support to us.
5. We participated in the Central Alabama Pride parade in Birmingham. Equality Alabama marched with our banner and our bright green shirts. We also had a booth at the Central Alabama Pride Festival in the Park. Our enthusiastic volunteers signed up over 150 people that afternoon.
6. Equality Alabama is working with the ACLU of Alabama a case involving an award winning Alabama school teacher fired because he was gay.

About Equality Alabama

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community of Alabama is increasingly under attack from the right wing. Where once we had George Wallace, Bull Connor, and the White Citizens Council we now have Roy Moore, Dean Young, and the Christian Coalition of Alabama.

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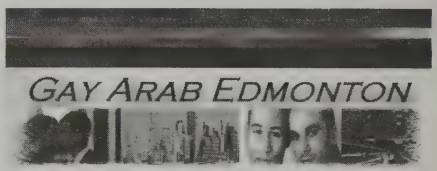

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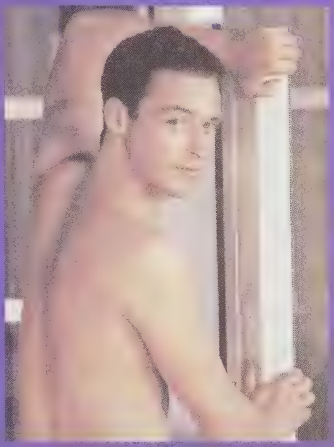

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Teatro Berdache Stages World Premiere

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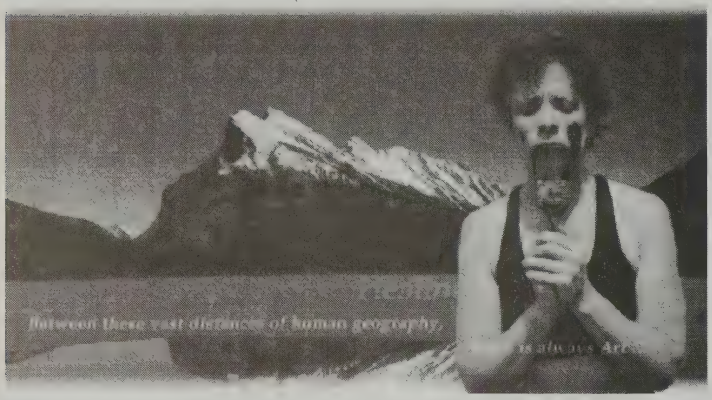

Teatro Berdache, Calgary's gay and lesbian theatre ensemble, kick starts its third season of operation. We are beginning with the premiere of Toronto playwright Corrina Hodgson's Q U I E T L Y OVERWHELMED.

Hodgson's play is the story of Cassandra, a young graffiti artist grieving the loss of her personal and professional partner Turea in a car accident. Under the mentorship of Nora, the art colony's bitter, iron-fisted director, Cass has agreed to complete a commission begun by Turea before the accident.

Cass and Nora's relationship is strained at best, due to each other's divergent views on lesbian and feminist politics, and its expression through art. Fueled by personal differences, the conflict deepens when a previously unknown romantic relationship between Turea and Nora comes to light.

Occupying a cottage beside Cass is Peter, a celebrated watercolour artist wrestling with his own demons: the recent collapse of his marriage, rejection by a young male artist named Derek, and the lack of inspiration he feels for his art. The strange but pivotal role Peter occupies in these two women's' live sets about a chain of events that poses life altering questions for all three: what is the importance of art in our lives? What are our responsibilities as artists to our colleagues, and to those we mentor?

Gail Hanrahan, the director of Michel Tremblay's FOR THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HER AGAIN at Alberta Theatre Projects, directs the production, with award-winning playwright Sharon Pollock serving as dramaturge on the project.

Q U I E T L Y OVERWHELMED features the performance talents of Mariette Sluyter as "Cass," Laura Parken as "Nora," and Larry Smith as "Peter." Other creative team members include Lillian Messer (set & costume design), Terry Middleton (lighting design) and D. Mitchell Craib (stage manager). The production has made possible through the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and The Outlooks Millennium Foundation.

Q U I E T L Y OVERWHELMED runs October 03 - 12, 2002 at 8 p.m. nightly in Calgary's Pumphouse Theatre. Advance tickets are available by phoning the Pumphouse Theatre at (403) 263-0079. Tickets are $15 each, or $12 for students and seniors.

In addition, a special preview performance of Q U I E T L Y OVERWHELMED will be held on October 02 at 7:30 p.m., in support of Teatro Berdache's next project DEAR MR. KLEIN. Pre-show cocktails and a post-show reception are included, along with the opportunity to meet the playwright, cast, and creative contributors. Tickets are $75 each, and available by calling (403) 245-0127.

For further information on Teatro Berdache, contact Creative Director Steve Gin at (403) 245-0127 or e-mail: burkegin@aol.com.

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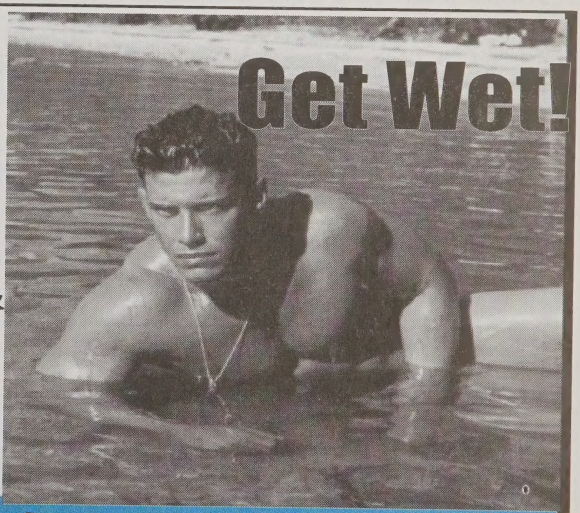

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i saw you...

Box 1033: My name is Jim. My buddy and I were having dinner at The Sawmill, on 104th Ave, June 8, around 7pm. You were our good-like waiter. You had brown hair, 5'9", muscular build, very well dressed. I am interested. Your name on the tag was Forest. Your bus boy was also hunky. You can bring him too. I am keen to get to know you, and have you.

Box 1298: I was at Save One Foods, June 30th, around 10pm. I was wearing a white shirt and black shorts. You were wearing a dark blue, long sleeved shirt. You have dark brown hair, 5'10". I would love to hear from you!

romance

Box 1122: My name is Steve. I am new to Edmonton. I am 35, 6'1", 190lb. I am employed as a bartender. I live alone. I am interested in sharing my heart with someone. I've got a big heart, a big home. I am romantic, sexy, good-looking. I teach tennis. I love to go out and have fun, just like everyone else does.

Box 1203: I am in my 40s, good-looking, 6', 190lb. I am romantic, adventurous, and sensual. I lead a stable lifestyle, but I do let loose now and again! I would like to meet someone who is personally and professionally stable, who has a big heart, and a good sense of humour. Honesty is a must. I have a vast array of interests; I am not looking for a clone.

friendship & hanging out

Box 1087: This handsome guy, 30, 5'8", 272lb, dark brown hair, is seeking other guys, 25-38. I am employed, straight-acting. I enjoy camping and hiking, traveling, like to watch a good movie at night. I like to get together with friends and have barbeques, and also like art galleries and so much more. I do not tolerate head games. I am very funny and can be very spontaneous.

Box 1426: I am 19, 175lb, brown hair and eyes, toned body. I am white, and I am looking for guys 26 and younger, and white. Get to know me.

Box 1442: I am 6'2, 175lb, and I am looking to hang out with some good buddies. I splay squash four to five times a week. I am into athletics. I have a moustache, with a smooth back and hairy legs. I want to go out with someone, and take it from there. I am 48, and I am looking for someone 30-44.

Box 1486: I am attractive, 26, 6'1", 150lb, red hair and grey eyes. I am compassionate and caring, and I am not into head games. I have a great sense of humour. I can laugh at myself. I can be a bit wild, although I do know when to draw that line. Very active. I enjoy spending time outdoors. I like to travel. I like music and movies. I like to go shopping, and spend time with family. I am looking for someone 24-36, attractive and confident without being arrogant. I want someone active, with a relaxed outlook on life.

one night stands

Box 1009: Mid-20s guy, 5'8", 140lb, cleancut, slim, smooth, toned. Looking to hook up.

Box 1067: Fit guy, big cock, looking to fuck or get fucked, bareback. Poppers, party favours, let's play.

Box 1070: I am an attractive, fit, mid-30s guy. I am 5'10", 155lb, short, dirty blond hair, blue eyes, clean-shaven, 32" waist. Looking for other fit guys for hot encounters. Maybe it will lead into a friendship, or something like that.

Box 1136: Feeling horny? Want to get together and do something about it? Give me a call. Want to get into great oral action, nipple sucking, ball licking, body contact, great blowjobs. I am 5'9", 180lb, brown hair, moustache, hairy chest.

Box 1158: My name is Rod. I am a gay white male. I have brown hair and blue eyes, 6'1", 200lb. I am looking for casual encounters. I can entertain.

Box 1191: This is Jay, 18. I am looking to hook up. I am looking for bottoms, 18-24.

Box 1199: I am 26, 6'1", green eyes, brown hair. I am 7" uncut. I am looking for any guys under 29, who like to get sucked off, or like to suck.

Box 1204: I have been playing with myself all afternoon. I am looking for someone to put a large cock into my slobby hole.

Box 1243: This is Eric. I am looking for a first time experience. I am into sucking cock and riding one. Nationality is not a problem. You are 25-35.

Box 1266: I am a clean, discreet, mid-40s, married bi guy. I am clean and discreet, and I am more of a bottom, but I can be versatile. I have been told that I am attractive. I have about 6-1/2" uncut, 6'2", 225lb – a big man, but not obese by any means. I am looking for a well-endowed top guy to get together with for some discreet, suck n' fuck. I love sucking the cock, and I love having the ass fucked. I am looking for a one night stand.

Box 1278: I am 5'9", 180lb, 6" cock, big balls. I am a top. I like to have my cock sucked. I want to meet different people who are traveling through. I stay by myself.

Box 1419: I am 42, 5'10", 200lb. I am divorced, six years. I am a single parent. I need a man who can entertain. I need discretion. I am looking for gay or bi men, but usually prefer gay men because you are far more relaxed. I like big, hung, uncut men, although cut will do, too. I would love to experience anal – give it. I would like to receive "facial". I love sucking cock. I like getting mine done. I am down-to-earth and relaxed. I won't fuck you around.

Box 1436: 35, bi, looking for some fun. I am 5'10", 200lb, clean shaven. I am fun to be with. I am looking for couples and singles that are into videotaping and making homemade movies. I am fun, clean and discreet.

Box 1452: If you're 18 to 21, slim, with a good head on your shoulders and cute, you'll be interested in this 8", cut cock that's attached to a 5'9", 155lb body, shaved, with cocking, and I just want some fun times.

Box 1461: Name is Michael. I'm 5'9", 190lb, brown hair blue-green eyes, glasses. I have a big, thick uncut cock, 7-1/2 to 8", nice balls. I'm 18 and in the downtown area. I like to entertain, to suck, get sucked, and do the fucking.

Box 1497: I'm looking for just about anything. I'm 5'5", blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, sitting here waiting in my sexy hot jockstrap. Message me back, and we'll hook up. I'm in the downtown Edmonton area.

group scenes & public sex

Box 1463: I'm a 40 year old single male, 5'11", 195lb, brown hair, moustache, hazel eyes, hairy chest, clean-shaven, uncut, fairly well-endowed. I'm new to this but curious and want to try everything, and the group thing definitely interests me.

Box 2871: Very hot bi male, Edmonton, 8" cut, versatile, clean, totally discreet, looking for a couple of hot males, or a male and female, or trans gendered person. I'm pretty open minded, and enjoy being a submissive bottom, panty boy. Looking for a masculine, dominant daddy. I enjoy giving and receiving. Well endowed. Brown hair, blue eyes, very athletic and good-looking.

total tops

Box 1590: Howdy. My name's Mike, 43, brown hair, brown eyes, 5'9", 190lb, 32" waist, excellent body. I keep myself in good shape, well-endowed, looking for someone younger, someone who can keep up. I live two hours out of Edmonton, but I'm willing to drive to Edmonton.

submissive bottoms

Box 1100: Hi boys. I'm a very, very passionate bottom looking for a top. I love to suck and get fucked. I'm 5'9", very clean, shaved hole and balls, looking for a man or men who want to have a good time. Let your love juice go on my lips and hole. 30, clean-shaven and well-endowed.

Box 1238: I'm a middle-aged, 52, and I'd like to meet someone. I love very big men who are bigger than myself. I'm 6', 200lb, and I'm turned on by strong, dominant men.

Box 1468: Looking for some hot, fun action, hungry hole needing some attention.

first-timers & bi guys

Box 1115: Black hair, brown eyes, I'm 55, my cock is 5" and I'm playing with it right now.

Box 1193: I'm a bi guy, looking to play. My girl friend is also bi and she really wants to see me with a guy, and we can make her cum just by watching two guys.

Box 1319: Good-looking guy, 5'10", 160lb, tanned, looking for bi guys who like going to straight clubs, have a good time and then head back and have a little more fun. If you're good-looking, bi, well-built, well-endowed and you want to go have a few drinks at a club and have fun after that, send me a message.

Box 1428: 5'11", 180lb, black hair, blue eyes, very good-looking, considered very attractive, 7-1/2" uncut, I like to play with you and your wife, or just you. I can suck your cock while you're sucking your wife's pussy. You can suck my big cock and watch me fuck your lady, and she can watch me fuck you. A smorgasbord of fun.

Box 1589: 34, 5'11", 185lb, light brown hair, hazel eyes, 7" cut, fairly new at this. I've been mostly a top, been a bottom once and liked it, would like to do it again. I don't have a lot of experience and am looking for the same, looking for someone within my age, clean, cut, discreet. Discretion is promised and assured.

Box 1597: It's Justin in Rocky Mountain, I'm 18, 6'2", brown hair, blue eyes, would like to hook up with some guy, so drop me a line to entice me to call you back.

leather & SM

Box 1318: Bob here, 6'2", 50 years old, would love to suck a golf ball through a garden hose.

Box 1510: I enjoy pain, being humiliated, being totally mastered. 6', 260lb, blue eyes, light brown hair, lean, fit and attractive. Punish me, force me to perform for you. I'm your sex toy. I'll do anything. Take absolute control and force me to exhibit my bare body any way you want. Your sex slave awaits.

Box 1570: Fairly dominant top man, late-30s, average kind of guy, 6', 160lb, short, dark hair, brown eyes, moustache and goatee, moderately hairy, nice thick partly sized cut cock, and shaved balls. Looking for regular submissive bottom who knows how to please and satisfy his man, someone who enjoys sucking cock and getting fucked on a regular basis. Looking for someone who is height/weight proportioned, an average kind of guy, you don't need to be a gym bunny, just be eager and willing and ready to please. I like porn, poppers, and more. I'm not into the gay scene and am clean, safe, healthy and very discrete. I can entertain or travel in and around the Edmonton area. If you're hairy, that's a plus.

bears & big men

Box 1385: I'm a good-looking, young looking, 30 year old guy, 6'1", 270lb, short blonde hair, blue eyes, clean shaven. Looking for a boyfriend, not casual sex even though casual sex can be fun. Looking for a buddy to watch movies, go shopping, rent DVDs and cuddle. I enjoy music, reading, surfing the net, am attracted to all sorts of guys, mainly thin, muscular guys.

fetishes, kink & raunch

Box 1093: Looking for guys who have a foot fetish. I have a very nice very high arch, long toes, small feet, size 7-1/2, and I love having pedicures, having my feet smelled, waxed, or you can leave them hairy, and I love having them worshipped by someone who knows how to love and honour a foot.

shemales & crossdressers

Box 1028: Bi white male, 5'8", 155-160lb, very muscular, work out 4 days a week, very tanned, brown hair and blue eyes, seeking feminine shemales or cross dressers for intimate get togethers.

Box 1050: 5'10", 165lb, good shape, short light brown hair, blue green eyes, married looking for someone very feminine and sensual for a good time.

Box 1055: Blonde hair, blue eyes, 7", rock hard, light cock, bi curious, hope to have some fun, would like to get my cock sucked and check out the horny side.

Box 1212: 25, 5'6", 160lb, looking for a TV/TS to have some fun with. Looking to have a good time.

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